IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re	Application of:)
Norik	azu ARAI et al.))
Continuation of Serial No.: 09/487,928) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Parent Filed: January 20, 2000) Examiner: Unassigned
For:	OPTICAL PICK-UP APPARATUS, RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS PROVIDED WITH THE OPTICAL PICKUP APPARATUS, OPTICAL ELEMENT, AND INFORMATION RECORDING/REPRODUCING	/)))))))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, and 78-80 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and amend claims 1, 4, 5, 77, 81, 82, 135, and 136, as follows:

FINNECAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, CARRETT, & DUNNER, L.L.P. 1300 I STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 202-408-4000